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ABSTRACT

A history of the development of education in Palau (Belau), the westernmost State in the Caroline Islands, is presented. The Caroline Islands were occupied in 1914 by Japan. The islands were devastated by World War II and 40 years of U.S. administration have not restored the islands to prosperity. Palau was declared a republic in 1986, but legal difficulties with its constitution have impeded the ratification of the proposed Compact of Free Association with the United States. The schools in Palau have followed U.S. curricula. The per pupil expenditure in 1985-86 was $1,462. Schooling is mandatory through grade 8 or until 16 years of age. There is a vocational college with an enrollment of 400 students, a staff of 93, and a library. Teacher education is being upgraded through the assistance of the University of Guam and San Jose State University in California. The paper includes a 24-item list of references to materials on Palau and education in the Republic. (NL)

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EDUCATION IN PALAU (BELAU): GENERAL INFORMATION AND BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MATERIALS

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EDUCATION IN PALAU (BELAU)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Palau is the westernmost State of the Caroline Islands, and consists of more than 200 islands and reefs, of which eighteen are inhabited. The total land area of the Republic of Palau is 460 sq. km., and consists mainly of the island of Babeldorb (397 sq. km.). Koror Island, connected to Babeldorb by a causeway, is the capital and home of most of the 13,800 Palauns. Spain sold the Caroline islands to Germany in 1899, and they were occupied by Japan in 1914. Extensive plantations and an infrastructure were developed by the Japanese. During the 1930s over 40,000 Japanese and Okinawans lived and worked on Koror and Babeldorb. The islands were devastated in World War II, and forty years of American administration have not restored the islands to their former prosperity. Japanese tourism, as on Saipan, appears to be the only growing industry. Palau was declared to be a Republic in 1986, but the necessary 75% vote in favor of eliminating anti-nuclear provisions of the constitution was not obtained in five elections from 1983 through 1987. The constitution was finally amended in August, 1987,

allowing the way for the proposed Compact of Free Association with the U.S.A. to be ratified, but the decision was appealed to the courts. They found the 1987 constitutional amendment illegal. U.S. $1 billion in "foreign" aid over the next fifty years is promised to Palau if and when the Compact is approved.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry announced in June, 1988 that up to 451 million yen in grants-in-aid will be extended to Palau to help the country develop its fishing industry and build roads. 261 million yen will be used for development of of facilities at a fishing port and the remaining 190 million yen will be allocated to purchase materials for the development and improvement of Palau's roads.

Schools in Palau follow American curriculums. The public schools in 1985-86 received $ 2,450,000 from the Palau govern ment, being 14% of the islands' $ 17,600,000 public spending. Another $ 2,000,000 was received from the U. S. Federal Government. Per pupil expenditures in Palau was $1,462. Children in Palau must attend school through grade 8 or until they are 16 years old.

Some students are sent to colleges and universities in Guam, Hawaii, and the mainland U.S.A. Many who graduate do not return. The Micronesian Occupational College at Koror offers a Vocational Diploma or Associate Degree in 18 vocational fields, and instruction for certificates is given in four other areas. Enrolment is 400 at this college; there is a staff of 93 and a library. Palau has an Archives and an excellent Museum, both at Koror. Next to the Museum is a research library with a good collection of books on Palau and Micronesia.

Teacher education is being up-graded through extension courses offered by the Community College of Micronesia, the University of Guam, and San Jose State University in Califor-ia.

The Palau Government's Micronesian Maritime Demonstration Center has trained 35 technicians from the Pacific region, distributed seed clams to regional countries, provided marine biology courses for Palau High School students and continued research studies on marine ecology. In its giant clam hatch-ery, technology for domestic breeding of clams was developed under a grant from the United States National Marine Fisheries Service.

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